

YOUNG & THOMPSON

INTERNATIONAL PATENT LAW

745 SOUTH 23RD STREET

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22202

(703) 521-2297

ESTABLISHED 1903

ROBERT J. PATCH
ANDREW J. PATCH
BENOIT CASTEL
THOMAS W. PERKINS
ROLAND E. LONG, JR.
ERIC JENSEN
MARK LESOW
LIAM J. McDOWELL
J. REED BATTEN, JR.
PHILIP A. DUBOIS

OF COUNSEL:
ROBERT F. HARGEST
BARB OTHER THAN VIRGINIA
REGISTERED PATENT AGENT

EMIL BONNELYCKE
(1875-1936)

WILLIAM H. YOUNG
(1902-1958)

IRVIN S. THOMPSON
(1903-1979)

FACSIMILE: (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

E-MAIL: embon@young-thompson.com
embon@pipeline.com

WEBSITE: www.young-thompson.com
CABLE ADDRESS: EMBON

April 25, 2003

VIA TELEFAX: 703-746-4042

To: Diane
Group 1700
United States Patent and Trademark Office

Dear Diane:

Re: Patricia DE JONG et al.
U.S. Patent Appln. 09/857,796
Filed June 11, 2001

Thank you for your phone call of Monday, April 21, regarding the RCE in the above-identified application filed on April 4, 2003. You indicated that you thought we had miscalculated the extra claims fees, such that an additional \$126 in fees was owing.

I have reviewed what we filed on April 4, and it seems to me that we got the extra claim fees right. The application as originally filed contained 13 claims, including one independent, so that was covered by the basic filing fee. During prosecution, claims 1-13 were cancelled and a new set of claims 14-26 was introduced, with claims 14-26 including only one independent claim. Therefore, no extra claim fees were incurred at that stage.

By way of the Request for Continued Examination filed April 4, 2003, the previously-pending claims 14-26 (including one independent claim) are preserved, and new claims 27-55 (including two independent claims) were added. Therefore, as of the filing of the RCE, there are 42 claims pending, including three independent. As the three independent claims are covered by the original filing fee, the only extra

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claim fees applicable would appear to be the \$18 fee for claims in excess of 20, namely, the 22 extra claims introduced by the RCE. That yields \$396, as indicated on the RCE transmittal.

If I have overlooked something, please give me a call and we can discuss the matter further.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

By


Andrew J. Patch, Reg. No. 32,925